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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 20 | Humidity 86% Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 64,363 | Nifty 19,230 | Gold 61,640 | Silver 72,750 | Dollar 83.28 | Euro 89.39 | GBP 101.62

As work hours become talking point, BM wonders why govt in no mood to stick to promise and restore daily work duration back to 9 hours

ALL WORKED UP

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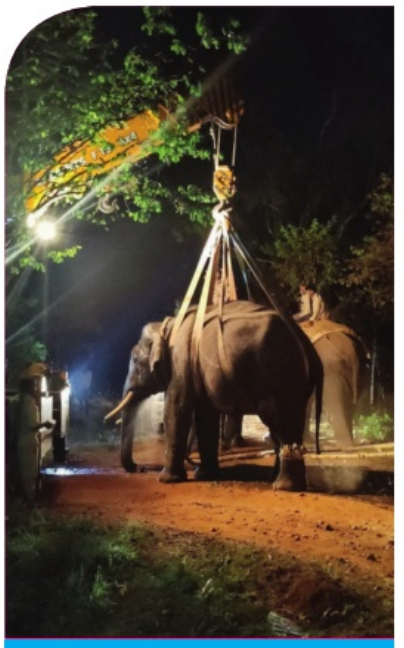
POP ZEBRA/UNSPLASH

The demand for withdrawal of the amendments made to the Factories Act, that allow women to work in night shifts alongside raising daily hours of work to 12, has resurfaced with work hours becoming a talking point of late.

The amendments brought through the Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023 allow an increase in the daily working hours from the present nine (including an hour of rest) to a maximum of 12 hours, subject to a total of 48 hours in a week.

Furthermore, the amendment has increased the permissible overtime work from 75 hours per quarter (25 hours overtime per month) to 144 hours per quarter (48 hours overtime per month). The amendment allows women to work night shifts in factories,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »



BOARD GAMES

Time to choose wisely for State Board of Wildlife

CITY PAGE 6

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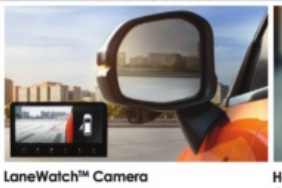
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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Creativity era

If you have been waiting to shop for Deepavali, then here's your chance to visit the Grand Rajasthani Exhibition organised by Maaruthi Enterprises. The event aims to bring rural artisans from the eastern part of the country together. Explore a vast collection of cotton and silk handlooms, handicrafts, Odisha tie and dye, dress material, Odisha sarees, and more. Puppet show is live at the expo.
Where: Sri Hari Kalyana Mandapa, 5, 136, Kims Medical College, 17, 30th Main Road, opp Bata, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Banashankari; When: until November 14; 10 am to 9 pm

02 For movie buffs

Experience a unique outdoor movie night that promises an unforgettable experience for movie enthusiasts of all ages. Attendees can enjoy their favourite movies in an amazing atmosphere, surrounded by the beauty of nature.
Where: Grand Mercure Bengaluru, Gopalan Mall, opposite RMZ Infinity Techpark, Swamy Vivekananda Road
When: November 18; 7 pm and 8 pm

03 Deepavali lights

Tamaala presents lamps and lights made from earthen elements by 60+ rural and tribal artisans from Jodhpur, Bhuj, Villupuram, Ramanagara, Belgaum, Udupi, and cooperatives in Bengaluru rural. You can also get your hands on Pichwai paintings from Rajasthan, Gond paintings of tribals from Dindori forests in MP, and more.
Where: Studio Tamaala, JP Nagar
When: until November 13; 11 am–8 pm (Tuesdays closed)

Flu alert: 'Stay guarded'

City doctors see significant surge in flu cases; they say symptoms may include nasal congestion and cough for upper respiratory tract infections

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According to healthcare professionals, getting the annual flu vaccine can help minimise the severity of infections

Flu activity is on the rise in Bengaluru. City hospitals are reporting a dramatic surge in the number of flu cases, especially over the past month. The number of patients suffering from upper respiratory infections and influenza has more than doubled. Doctors say it has been a prolonged viral season ever since July this year, with Influenza A continuing to be a front-runner alongside adenovirus and respiratory infection.

"We have observed an increase of about 50 to 70% in patients suffering from upper respiratory infections and influenza. The number of OPD cases with flu has significantly increased in the past month. They come with a sore throat, cough, fever, and myalgia. In severe cases, patients experience breathlessness and reduced oxygen levels," said Dr Manjunath PH, pulmonologist at Gleneagles Hospitals.

Patients are also presenting with symptoms such as a cold, cough, fever, body pain, headache, watery eyes, and wheezing. Healthcare experts say the existence of broader effects such as general discomfort, tiredness, and muscle pain emphasises how these viral illnesses can affect multiple systems within the body. "Symptoms can range from upper respiratory tract infections to pneumonia, gastroenteritis, and even encephalitis (brain fever). Understanding the varied symptoms of respiratory infections is key to timely intervention. These may include nasal congestion and cough for upper respiratory tract infections, persistent fever and difficulty breathing for pneumonia, and concurrent gastrointestinal symptoms for gastroenteritis. In severe cases, encephalitis can present with altered mental status and seizures," informed Dr Anupama Menon, Consultant Paediatric Pulmonologist, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Marathahalli. Doctors say these infections are affecting all age groups. However, children below six years of age, those with chronic diseases, the immunocompromised, pregnant women, and the elderly are particularly vulnerable.

Some hospitals have confirmed that almost 1 in 4 children with respiratory symptoms have been testing positive. The numbers are expected to rise in the coming months, with people gathering together for festivals and when temperatures drop.

> **"Avoid crowded places, wear masks, maintain proper etiquette while coughing, get vaccinated against influenza** –Dr S Rajamanya

Weather changes, high pollution levels, a lack of mask-wearing habits, the reopening of schools, and potential immune dysfunction after the covid-19 infection and vaccination could be some of the reasons responsible for the surge. Moreover, people mingling and travelling more this year might be yet another contributor.

"As people come into closer contact, especially in crowded settings like public transportation or social gatherings, the transmission of respiratory viruses becomes more prevalent, increasing the risk of infection for vulnerable populations, including children. Moreover, the relaxation of preventive measures such as mask-wearing and social distancing in certain settings may contribute to a higher likelihood of viral spread among children, particularly those with compromised immune systems or pre-existing respiratory conditions," explained Dr Menon.

According to healthcare professionals, getting the annual flu vaccine can help minimise the severity of infections. Other measures, such as practicing good hand hygiene, following appropriate cough etiquette, wearing masks, and staying home when unwell, will help reduce transmission too. Ensuring proper indoor ventilation, maintaining a balanced diet, and monitoring respiratory health regularly will go a long way.

Furthermore, experts say integrating these measures with standard preventive guidelines is essential to safeguarding children's respiratory health and minimising the impact of seasonal viral infections on vulnerable groups. "Avoid crowded places, wear masks, maintain proper etiquette while coughing, get vaccinated against influenza and stay home if you have signs of infection," said Dr Suchismitha Rajamanya from Aster Hospital.

12 hours of work: Now that's a work flaw

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which was previously prohibited. While the Congress in its election manifesto had promised to restore the daily hours of work back to 9, the government on August 7 went ahead to notify the amendments passed earlier. In February, the Bill was passed by the Karnataka Legislative Council where the BJP had a majority, despite walkouts from members of the Congress as well as Janata Dal (Secular).

Trade unions have consistently demanded the amendments be withdrawn as it opens a window for exploitation of workers.

All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) in a statement condemning the amendment had said: "Although the amendment says that such change can only be with the consent of the workers, it is an established fact that there is no space for consent in a relation of employer and workmen, which is a highly unequal relationship. Workers are most often forced to accept the terms of the management or threatened with dire consequences, which could even include termination." It said that in the name of freedom, women are being compelled to work at night. "Several studies have found that night shifts result in several health issues in workers, including even increasing the possibility of cancer in workers who work night shifts, and the effort must be to reduce night shifts across gender," it added.

> **"... it is an established fact that there is no space for consent in a relation of employer and workers, which is a highly unequal relationship,"**
> – All India Central Council of Trade Unions

Dr Aditya S Chowti, senior consultant, Internal Medicine, Fortis Cunningham Road told Bangalore Mirror that working 12-hour shifts can have adverse effects on health, including an increased risk of chronic diseases like heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and obesity, as well as a higher likelihood of accidents due to fatigue.

"It can also disrupt sleep patterns, leading to problems like fatigue, reduced concentration, and irritability. The stress of extended hours can result in headaches, stomachaches, and high blood pressure, and it may take a toll on mental health, causing anxiety, depression, and burnout," he said.

"Additionally, maintaining personal relationships and hobbies can become challenging with such demanding schedules. To safeguard health during 12-hour shifts, one must prioritise sufficient sleep, adopt a balanced diet, engage in regular exercise, and implement effective stress management techniques. These steps can help mitigate the associated health risks and enhance overall well-being," he added.

No escape for 'Escape Karthik'

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The Govindaraja Nagar police have nabbed notorious burglar Karthik Kumar, also known as Escape Karthik, who is alleged to have committed over 100 burglaries. He got the moniker 'Escape Karthik' as he has eluded capture by the police twice, in 2008 and 2010.

A police officer claimed that Karthik is connected to over 100 theft incidents that have been recorded from Hasan and Mysuru, as well as Kamakshipalya, Hennur, and Kothanur in the city. In 2005, at the age of 16 years, Kartik is said to have stolen ornaments from a house for the first time. He had previously been arrested, and after being released on bond, he would get back to burglaries. According to the authorities, he would mortgage the stolen goods and use the money to spend in casinos and maintain a lavish lifestyle.

CRIME FILES

He is a married man with two kids and lives in Hennur. The police have taken him into custody over 20 times. He was apprehended 45 days after he fled the Parappana Agrahara Central Prisons in 2008 using a food van. Once more in 2010, he broke out of the police vehicle while he was being driven to the scene of the crime and was apprehended later. The Hennur police also detained Karthik in November last year.

Bike thief nabbed

The police have arrested a bike thief who was stealing to sustain his liquor addiction. The Giri Nagar Police have filed a complaint against the thief, identified as Lakshman.

Lakshman's would steal motorcycles from one police station's jurisdiction and leave them in another another police station limits. He would then remove the tyres and batteries from the stolen vehicle, which he would then sell to pay for alcohol.

There are 15 cases filed against the suspect in different police stations. The Giri Nagar police were able seize over 20 two-wheelers, worth Rs. 11.55 lakh from him.

Following Saturday evening's downpour, a portion of the service road along the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway turned into a miniature pond, causing a traffic jam

Pouring woes

'World-class' Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway flooded and jammed again

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> **If a highway floods during rainfall, it indicates poor road construction quality**
>
> –Srinivasa Gowda, commuter

It's evident that no lessons have been learned from previous spells of rain, as the Bengaluru-Mysuru 'expressway' found itself 'underwater' once again on Saturday. After heavy downpour, a section of the service road was flooded, leaving vehicle users stranded. The expressway that was witnessing heavy weekend traffic, a supposedly world-class highway, crumbled with just half an hour of rainfall.

Rainfall began around 5 pm, causing flooding in the areas near Kempanahalli Gate, Kallugopanahalli, and Dasappana Doddi. Toll-free service roads were particularly affected, resulting in a major traffic pileup.

Srinivasa Gowda, a commuter, commented, "If a highway floods during rainfall, it indicates poor road construction quality. In previous years, authorities claimed record rainfall was caused flooding in the area. However, this year, with minimal rainfall, the highway getting flooded in just 30 minutes only exposes the poor road quality. We still remember last year's incident when the entire under-bridge was submerged, with cars underwater. Many buses were stranded, and locals and police had to intervene to rescue passengers." According to Gowda, this being the main highway connecting the capital city to many districts, such a scene is unacceptable. "When we had a four-lane highway, waterlogging was rare. If the main expressway is blocked due to rainfall, it can adversely affect thousands," he said.

Heavy rain

Many parts of the city received heavy rainfall on Saturday evening. Per the Bengaluru Varunamitra portal, Kadugodi received the highest with 14 mm rain, followed by Rajmahal Guttahalli with 13 mm, Chowdeshwari ward and Yelahanka with 12.5 mm each, and Garudacharpalya with 12 mm.

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Cleanup or pay up

After three failed attempts, BBMP plans to try again to penalise owners of vacant plots turned into dumping grounds

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BBMP renews efforts to penalise vacant site owners for dumpsites. Notice will be issued to ensure proper site maintenance and trash removal; non-compliance leads to penalties. A second notice may follow

After numerous unsuccessful attempts, BBMP is once again formulating a strategy to penalise owners of vacant sites whose properties have turned into dumping grounds. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath explained, "In 2019 and 2020, we issued a circular under the KMC Act, targeting those who were either disposing of debris or allowing it to accumulate in vacant sites, adversely affecting neighbouring properties. We proposed penalties. Last year, we reissued the circular and attempted enforcement.

However, many objected, claiming that the KMC Act couldn't be applied. Therefore, we have now established rules under the solid waste management regulations and are circulating a new circular. According to these rules, owners of poorly maintained vacant sites will face penalties. Additionally, for trash or construction and debris waste (C and D) waste, we will instruct the owners to clean it up. If they fail to do so, we will take care of the cleanup and charge them a fee. Even if they refuse to pay the fee, it will be recorded in their khata, creating complications whenever they attempt to sell or engage in transactions using the khata. Payment will be required."

The penalty will be determined in accordance with the solid waste management plan. Regarding the expenses involved in waste clearance, Nath clarified, "On a site, there might be either one truckload or ten truckloads of waste, so we will assess our costs accordingly." Detailing the procedure, Nath explained, "Initially, we will issue a notice instructing them to maintain the site properly and clear the trash. Failure to comply will result in a penalty. If there is still no response, we will issue a second notice."

> **"On a site, there might be either one truckload or ten truckloads of waste, so we will assess our costs accordingly"**
> – Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP Chief Commissioner

An official further added, "As per the initial proposal, a penalty of Rs 2 per square foot will be imposed if garbage is found. However, if this recurs for the third time, legal action will be taken against the owner, and the fine will be incorporated into the property tax."

Nevertheless, the proposal has elicited diverse responses. A plot owner expressed support, stating, "It is a positive step that owners of vacant plots will be urged to clear their premises. I reside on the outskirts where numerous vacant plots near my home have turned into dumping grounds, causing distress to neighbours. We hope that owners will now take this matter seriously and address the garbage issue."

On the flip side, there is substantial opposition. Gururaja, a businessman, argued, "Why should house owners face penalties for someone else's actions? I've observed that people looking to dispose of garbage often target these vacant areas. How can the owner be held accountable for someone else's mistake? In reality, the BBMP should be penalised for failing to ensure door-to-door collection, leading people to seek vacant spaces for disposal."

Meanwhile, BBMP is closely monitoring 'unauthorised' khata transfers, with an estimated 45,000 individuals holding illegal A khatas. In response to this issue, Nath stated, "In the initial phase, we conducted a tabletop exercise, scrutinising houses/plots that previously held B khatas and were later converted to A khatas. This raised suspicions, as altering a khata requires three to four modifications. If these adjustments are not made, and the khata has been transferred, a thorough examination is warranted. Thus, following the meeting, we have identified such khatas, will isolate them, and issue notices. Joint commissioners will be responsible for issuing these notices. Currently, manual khatas are undergoing scanning and digitisation. If we don't make corrections now, they will transition to digitisation, necessitating our attention."

Nallurahalli Lake gets Rajyotsava shine, thanks to locals

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Sumadhura Silver Ripples Apartment residents celebrate Rajyotsava with a cleaning drive at Nallurahalli Lake

Karnataka Rajyothsava was celebrated with much fanfare and joy across the state on November 1. While many residents' welfare organisations organised cultural programs on the occasion, the residents of Sumadhura Silver Ripples Apartment chose to celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava by embarking on a cleaning drive at Nallurahalli Lake. Over 70 residents, accompanied by approximately 20 children, convened at 7.30 am to actively participate in the cleaning effort, ensuring the lake remained free from garbage and plastic.

"I am very happy with the positive response of the residents. We will celebrate Rajyotsava by organising cultural programs. We have been organising cleaning drives and cultural programs for the last four years," said Vijay Reddy N V, Whitefield Residents' Welfare Association president. Activities included lake cleaning, traditional games for all residents, cultural programs to showcase the rich heritage of Karnataka, and quizzes like "Non-Kannadiga to Nanu Kannadiga" were organised to encourage residents from other states to learn the local language. The organisers divided the 70 residents, including children, into teams of 5-6 people and announced that the top three teams would be given prizes. It brought out a competitive edge among the residents for collecting more and more garbage from the lake premises.

The result was the collection of 212 kgs of non-biodegradable waste within one hour. The residents were very happy to reduce the plastic burden on the lake. To reward the hard work of the residents, the organisers arranged a tasty breakfast.

"My two daughters accompanied me to the lake. We won the second prize. I am very happy to be part of the team that cleared plastic and garbage at the lake," said Pavithra S, a resident. Jagadeesh N, one of the organisers, said the residents planted saplings on the lake bund during Rajyotsava last year.

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Jayanagar

In front of Jayanagar police station, violations of no-parking rules cause traffic congestion and disregard for traffic regulations.

Footpath risk
Residency Road

Tiles coming loose near the bus stop outside Bishop Cotton Boys' School on Residency Road pose a safety hazard for pedestrians.

Access obstructed
BTM Layout

Near the Mico Layout Post Office, encroachment on public roads impedes access to the emergency services, such as the ambulances and the fire brigades.

Risky road business: Unfinished stretch worries Balagere locals

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Residents living near Balagere Road have expressed their concerns regarding an unattended stretch of road connecting Marathahalli through Munnekollal. This unfinished road poses a potential threat to children who need to pass through this area daily to reach Vagdevi Vilas School.

Abhijith Lodh, an IT employee who sends his children to the school, said that only a small stretch, measuring close to 50 metres, has been left unasphalted. "Even after small showers of rain, the road forms huge puddles of water, making it very hard for motorists to navigate. While four-wheelers may manage, the stretch poses a heavy risk for two-wheelers," he said.

The road connecting to Marathahalli, where the non-asphalted stretch lies, has now been receiving more vehicles as it is the only alternative route if one chooses not to travel through the

Unattended stretch connecting Marathahalli through Munnekollal poses potential threat to children who need to use this area daily to reach school

Panathur railway under bridge (RuB). Many commuters opt out of travelling through the Panathur RuB as it is infamous for witnessing severe traffic congestion. The RuB is also often closed in case of heavy rains as the area floods.

"Many school buses have to travel through the same stretch. The school has hundreds of children who must travel to the spot each day. If the stretch is not paid attention to by the authorities, mishaps involving children may happen. It must be avoided at all costs," Lodh said. Residents have raised the issue with the local MLA and other concerned authorities in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). However, their requests have not been paid heed to.

Unasphalted stretch in Balagere Road

Food for thought

Citizens have initiated campaign to reduce food wastage, save environment

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Food wastage is a significant global issue that squanders valuable resources and contributes to environmental problems. Reports indicate that wasted food accounted for 8.5% of global greenhouse emissions. Citizens have initiated a campaign to reduce food wastage and save the environment.

Reports show that the scale of food wastage in India is high, with household waste amounting to 68.7 million tons of food annually, equating to 50 kg per person per year. Furthermore, over 20 crore people go to bed hungry. More than one-third of the food produced in India is wasted even before reaching plates.

Odette Katrak, an environment and sustainability changemaker and Co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, who initiated the reduce food wastage campaign, highlighted that food wastage is a significant problem for several reasons. Growing food consumes water and electricity, making it doubly distressing when wasted and the carbon footprint from transportation and storage. Food wastage increases the waste burden of cities, attracts rats, and contributes to methane generation, as it often ends up as mixed waste in landfills.

On World Food Day, which falls on October 16, Katrak started raising awareness about reducing food wastage. "Shocking volumes of perfectly good food end in bins every day and more so during festival time. This phrase 'food waste' is a contradiction because food is a precious resource needed to survive, and 'waste' implies a discard of no value. So our aim is to make people conscious of reducing food waste through simple preventive actions while buying, cooking or storage of both cooked and uncooked food. To not waste even a single grain of rice is a value my mother taught us children, and we, in turn, taught ours. This was so in

Wasted food accounts for 8.5% greenhouse emissions

"Our aim is to make people conscious of reducing food waste through simple preventive actions while buying, cooking or storage of food

–Odette Katrak, Co-founder, Beautiful Bharat

most homes but has got diluted with extra buying power, and we hope our campaigns can bring some awareness, given the significant impact on climate change," said Katrak.

The experts emphasised the crucial role parents can play in teaching children not to waste food, with the same responsibility extending to schools and corporate offices. Hotels can also contribute by displaying reminders against food wastage and offering special discounts or compliments to patrons who finish their meals without leaving any food on their plates.

Raj from the Ploggers Army said, "Ideally, we must understand that there cannot be food waste considering the huge efforts involved from farmers till it reaches our plates. Let's buy only to the extent we can eat. Secondly, if it's excess, contact the maids or the security guards. If it's much more, the best way is to reach out to zero-funded voluntary groups like the Robin Hood Army to ensure the excess food reaches a hungry stomach. Then reach out to community fridges (though there are very few in Bangalore). Composting is the last stage."

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THE SUNDAY READ

Board games

It is time to reconstitute State Board of Wildlife and past instances make experts worry members won't be chosen without fear or favour

File photo of a rescue operation after two elephants created trouble in the vicinity of Arabbithittu Wildlife Sanctuary near Hunsur

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As the reconstitution process of the State Board of Wildlife gains momentum, conservationists and wildlife activists have raised concerns about alleged controversial appointments of Board members in the recent past. They claim that on multiple occasions in the past, the members appointed did not have the right field expertise and background in wildlife conservation, laws, and policies. This has resulted in the dilution of the Board's objectives and has hampered its functioning.

"Over the years, the members appointed to the Board have had a conflict of interest. The best example is a mining company owner who was nominated to the Board in January 2020 along with two other members having purely political backgrounds with no expertise in the field of wildlife. In the past, a mining baron's company was implicated by the Karnataka Lokayukta for illegal export. Despite bringing these issues to the notice of the state government, the mining baron not only continued as a member of the previous Board from January 2020 but more shockingly, was reappointed to the Board in October 2020. Such appointments should not be allowed," said a city-based wildlife conservationist.

Wildlife activists claim that most of the time, the appointments of State Board of Wildlife members are purely on political recommendation and clout rather than actual merit.

"A good example is that of a tribal leader who was appointed as a Board member a few years ago. However, in 2014, when his house in Kodagu was raided, the forest department booked a forest offence case against him for illegal possession of teakwood. He not only continued as a member of the Board but was caught in another offense in 2016 for brewing liquor illegally in Anechoukur Wildlife Range of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve. Despite all this, he not only continued as a member of the Board but was reappointed again in 2017," recalled Ram, a wildlife activist.

> **The Wildlife Board has a vital role in clearances and requires field knowledge of guidelines, expertise, grass-root experience and dedication**
>
> –Joseph Hoover, former State Board for Wildlife member

'Mockery of law'

They allege that the appointments are now being made with justifications for such nominees calling themselves 'wildlife photographers,' 'wildlife is my hobby,' or 'social worker' etc. This, they say, is a mockery of the appointment process mandated under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

As per WLPA, the State Board for Wildlife consists of the Chief Minister as chairperson, Environment and Forest Minister as vice chairperson, three members of the state legislature, three persons representing non-government organisations dealing with wildlife, and 10 eminent conservationists, ecologists, and environmentalists to be nominated by the state government, apart from others.

The duty of the Board is to advise the government in the selection and management of areas to be declared as protected areas, formulate policies for the protection and conservation of wildlife, and tackle matters relating to the amendment of acts.

Conservationists allege that such appointments are well-planned strategies to bring down the Board and make it function as a paper tiger.

"It is important to note that the State Board for Wildlife is a statutory body and has a very important role to play in wildlife clearances like railways, highways, mining, etc., which requires field expertise, knowledge of wildlife laws/acts/guidelines/policies apart from grass root level experience, utmost commitment and dedication to arrive at scientific and appropriate decisions. In the given situation of rising human-animal conflict cases and loss of biodiversity, it is disheartening to see the Board getting diluted," said Joseph Hoover, former State Board for Wildlife member and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

Allegations denied

However, SK Malkhede, PCCF Wildlife, and Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka Forest Department, denied the allegations and said the members of the Board are appointed by the government under the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and guidelines prescribed by the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife Rules, 2006.

"The term of the State Wildlife Board is over and the new board will be constituted by the government any time. The members are appointed by the government under the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and guidelines prescribed by the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife Rules, 2006. These rules define how members are to be appointed and how the board functions. The background and expertise of these members are verified and there have been no major complaints regarding any wildlife board member in the past. The members are mandated to contribute positively to wildlife conservation," said Malkhede.

K'taka opposes cap on med seats

Minister for Medical Education terms National Medical Commission's proposal to limit number of seats unscientific and says it is unfair to southern states

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

After several states opposed the National Medical Commission's (NMC) proposal to cap seats, Karnataka has also joined the bandwagon in opposing the move. Minister for Medical Education, Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, declared, "We will write to the Centre opposing this move and withdraw the order. This decision is unscientific and detrimental to the interests of Karnataka students. We feel that this move is unfair to the southern states. Karnataka is in the second position when it comes to the maximum number of medical colleges and seats. Many students from other states and countries visit Karnataka to study medicine. Now, the new cap will be a hurdle."

In its latest directive, the NMC has capped the number of undergraduate medical seats in each state at 100 per million population, aiming to prevent overcrowding in medical colleges.

As the NMC imposes seat limits in medical colleges across states, Karnataka and other southern states may face restrictions on new college approvals. This move has sparked a debate, with some experts expressing concerns that Karnataka might not witness the establishment of new medical colleges in the near future. On the contrary, other experts view this as a positive step, asserting that it will enhance the quality of medical education.

NMC capped the no. of seats in states at 100 per million population

Medical colleges in all districts

Meanwhile, the minister said that there were plans to increase the number of medical seats in the state. "Currently, the Mysuru Medical College has 150 seats, and we want to increase it to 200. Between 2013 and 2018, medical colleges were set up in seven districts. As there is a growing demand for medical seats, we want to increase the number of medical colleges. Our plan is to have a government medical college in every district. Currently, 23 districts have medical colleges, and based on the financial conditions, there are plans to have government medical colleges in eight more districts as well,: said Patil.

According to the NMC notification, this restriction could potentially add 40,000 MBBS seats nationwide if the distribution is even. However, southern states like Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, already having a significant number of medical colleges, may face limitations on establishing new ones, as calculated by the NMC. Existing colleges, however, will remain unaffected. The rationale behind this move is to avoid compromising the quality of education by rapidly converting area hospitals into medical colleges.

> **"This would enhance the quality of medical education by focusing on infrastructure and manpower at a limited number of colleges**
>
> –a professor, who spoke in favour of the NMC proposal

After the Karnataka government announced the setting up of new medical colleges in almost every district, some upgraded area hospitals are lacking sufficient infrastructure and faculty. While infrastructure development may take four to five years, faculty shortages may persist, potentially impacting the standard of education.

A professor, on condition of anonymity, said, "This would enhance the quality of medical education by focusing on infrastructure and manpower at a limited number of colleges. We can draw a parallel with engineering education two decades ago, where increased seats led to a decline in quality and resulted in unemployment; a similar situation in medical education shouldn't happen now."

Tree census: Tender norm tweak

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to tweak its tender norms to attract more bidders to carry out Bengaluru's tree census.

BBMP floated the tender for the long-awaited enumeration of trees in the city nearly a month ago. However, the civic agency had then landed in a single-bid situation. While eight tenders, one for each zone of BBMP, were issued by the Forest Department, the civic agency received only two bids. Both bids were from the same person, and thus a fresh tender has now been issued.

"For every unit of tender, we have quoted Rs 46 lakh. The condition that we have relaxed is the requirement of similar work in this financial capacity. The bidders need to have backgrounds in plant research but not necessarily research work of this financial capacity. We are considering other work aside from plant research. If they have the financial capacity and some background in plant research, they can apply," said BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Forest Department, BBMP.

The census will focus on the number of trees in the city

The civic agency issued the fresh set of tenders on October 26 and is planning to award work orders by the end of November.

"We have issued the tender, and it will be opened on November 20. Successful bidders will be awarded work orders soon after. Following that, a training session will be held for them to ensure the census process is conducted uniformly and work will start immediately," added Swamy.

BBMP, after a delay of more than four years since Karnataka High Court's order in 2019, floated the tender for the enumeration of an estimated 20.8 lakh trees in the city, covering an area of 9761.6 sq km. The fund allocated for the project, which is expected to be completed within six months, is a little over Rs 3.74 crore. To carry out the process, Bengaluru has been divided into eight zones of approximately 1,000 sq km each.

According to officials from the Forest Department, the census will focus on the number of trees in the city and will document five parameters: girth, unique tree ID, species name, GPS location, and photographs of each tree.

Letter to Foxconn is fake: DKS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday, denounced a bogus letter circulating on social media that allegedly belonged to him and urged Foxconn's Apple production facility in Hyderabad to relocate to Bengaluru.

The letter, dated September 25, appeared to be addressed by Shivakumar to Young Lia, the chairman of Foxconn Technology Group, requesting that they move the Apple AirPods factory to the city.

On social media, the letter has been making the rounds since Saturday morning. The deputy CM also shared the fake letter, which stated, "After significant deliberations with the Minister of Industry, we are eager to bring unique industries that will enhance the prestige of Bengaluru. I propose that you consider relocating the Apple AirPod industry, which you plan to set up in Hyderabad, to Bengaluru." **–BMB**

Tourist bus fall: 1 from city killed

A woman was killed and five others sustained serious injuries when a tourist bus fell into a forest trench in Chikkamagaluru early on Saturday.

According to police, the incident took place near Cheekanahalli Cross in the limits of Gonibeedu police station in Mudigere taluk after the driver lost control over the vehicle while negotiating a curve.

The injured were shifted to the Hassan government hospital, where their condition is stated to be critical. The deceased has been identified as Surekha (45) from Yelahanka in Bengaluru. A total of 48 tourists were travelling in the bus. **–IANS**

Batting for tamarind grove

Karnataka Environment and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Friday directed the Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB) to maintain and preserve the Nallur Tamarind Grove, India's first biodiversity site located near Devanahalli. Presiding over the 54th meeting of KBB, Khandre noted that the 400-year-old grove should be developed and preserved as a tourist destination.

"Since this tamarind grove is located close to the Bengaluru International Airport, if maintained and managed, it can become a tourist destination," said Khandre. **–BMB**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

WATCHING CLOSELY

A chimpanzee wearily taking a look at his subordinate troop at Mysuru zoo

The picture was clicked by BM reader **P Suryanarayana**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

City under siege: 'Battling with serious air pollution'

Environmentalists oppose reduction of buffer zone along Kumudavathi and Arkavathi rivers; they say situation in Bengaluru is as bad as New Delhi

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has announced that the buffer zone along the Kumudavathi and Arkavathi rivers in Bengaluru will be reduced. Concerns have been raised and protests staged against the move, while environmentalists maintain that this would hinder the rejuvenation efforts.

The buffer zone extends 1 km on either side of the river. With Bengaluru witnessing rapid construction activity, mining, and an increase in the volume of vehicles, the air quality is alarmingly deteriorating.

Noted environmentalist, author, and former IFS Officer, AN Yallappa Reddy, told IANS that in Bengaluru, the situation is no way inferior to New Delhi.

Although the air quality levels are different, they are in no way different from New Delhi. 2.5 micron and 10 micron particulate matter are circulating, but there is no system to monitor them, and they are not coming out. "The major pollution is coming from construction and polluting industries. These industries are not caring for any law, and there is no enforcement of the law," he observes. In Delhi, there is an alarming situation. People are going to die from all kinds of diseases, including heart problems and diabetes. The pollutants once they enter the brain and heart may cause all kinds of chronic diseases," he explains.

Suresh Heblikar, a noted filmmaker, actor, and environmental activist, told IANS that water is completely destroyed in Bengaluru and the air is deteriorating rapidly.

"There is no doubt that the city is on the path of destruction, and I have written extensively about it in major media long ago," he stated. "In our country, the megacities are no longer alive, and they have all collapsed ecologically. People are living just like that, and it has become a major problem. South End Circle, Silk Board Junction, and Whitefield area in Bengaluru are experiencing the worst air quality levels and have crossed the danger mark. "In big cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune, Ahmadabad, and Kolkata, there is too much air pollution. Madhya Pradesh is much better. In cities like Indore and Bhopal, there are no large numbers of vehicles.

"You should study economic development. Development is only for some people. When you talk about pollution, don't talk only about pollution. Talk about the economic growth that the country is trying to take up. This economic growth is producing huge pollution," Heblikar opined.

He went on to say, "Here, the water is so polluted. I hear from my friends who have been working on water for two to three decades. We discuss how water is highly contaminated, how heavy metals are going into the sewage, and how sewage is mixing with drinking water." **– IANS**

DID YOU KNOW?

Mano Murthy is one of the most popular composers. He is known to have composed various songs for the Kannada film industry. Mungaru Male stands as one of his best works, and it was one of the biggest hits. He pursued electrical engineering at Bangalore University. He also composed music for popular movies such as Nanna Preethiya Hudugi and Preethi Prema Pranaya. He was the recipient of the National Award in 2004.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

How can the traffic situation be improved on Bengaluru's roads?

Prithik Ramesh, BM Reader
Bengaluru's public transportation should be improved in order to reduce traffic congestion, promote sustainability, and enhance the city's quality of life.

Pushkar Shankar, BM Reader
I think the younger generation—the so-called 90s, millennials, and Gen Z—should take the initiative to use BMTC services for short-distance commutes. There should be better road connectivity on the Ring Road, as it is unarguably one of the most critical roads, ensuring fast commutes from one end to the other end of Bengaluru.

Sampada Suresh, BM Reader
I would aspire for Bengaluru to genuinely fulfil its legacy as the 'Garden City,' transforming into a flourishing urban haven that enriches lives while preserving its verdant heritage.

Aryan Dev, BM Reader
I'd say probably overpopulation could be one of the biggest issues in Bengaluru. It's an IT hub where immigrants come and settle, and due to this, accommodating all of them is tough.

Shradha Nambiar, BM Reader
I would like to change the roads in Bangalore. Roads should be improved, potholes covered, and the roads a little wider.

Ganesh Aroor, BM Reader
Simple but not easy: no parking or selling on the roads should be allowed. Stricter rules should be enforced, empowering traffic cops.

SPEAK TO US

What are some interesting cultural or recreational activities in the city?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

'Govt exploring partnership with Meta on cyber safety'

Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge said on Saturday that the state government is exploring a partnership with social media giant Meta on cyber safety, especially with respect to women and child safety.

Addressing the Digital Suraksha Summit here, Kharge said that India is witnessing rapid digital adoption. This further creates a need for users to be provided with easy-to-access tools and resources to safeguard their wellbeing online. The government of Karnataka is committed to working with various stakeholders and experts to create an enabling and inclusive digital environment.

Later speaking to reporters, the minister said, "We are looking at exploring partnerships with Meta on digital and cyber safety, especially with respect to women and child safety. We are also trying to see how we can prevent youngsters from falling prey to faulty loan apps."

Over 60 people in India have lost their lives due to illegal apps with many unreported cases. "We have already taken action and shut down more than 8-10 illegal loan apps operating in Bengaluru," he said.

He also highlighted the prevalence of illegal betting apps in tier II towns and rural areas, often in vernacular languages, posing a significant challenge for the government.

Earlier this year, Meta launched the Digital Suraksha Summit, building on its efforts to offer a safer and inclusive internet to everyone. It included a slew of measures on enabling digital education and literacy across youth well-being, child safety, tackling misinformation as well as the overall education of users. **–PTI**

Govt approves 29th tranche of electoral bonds

Ahead of assembly elections in five states, the government on Saturday approved the issuance of 29th tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale on November 6.

The decision comes amid campaigning for assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram. "Government has authorised State Bank of India (SBI), in the XXIX Phase of sale, to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorised Branches w.e.f. November 6-20," the finance ministry said. The branches include those in Bengaluru, Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai. **–PTI**

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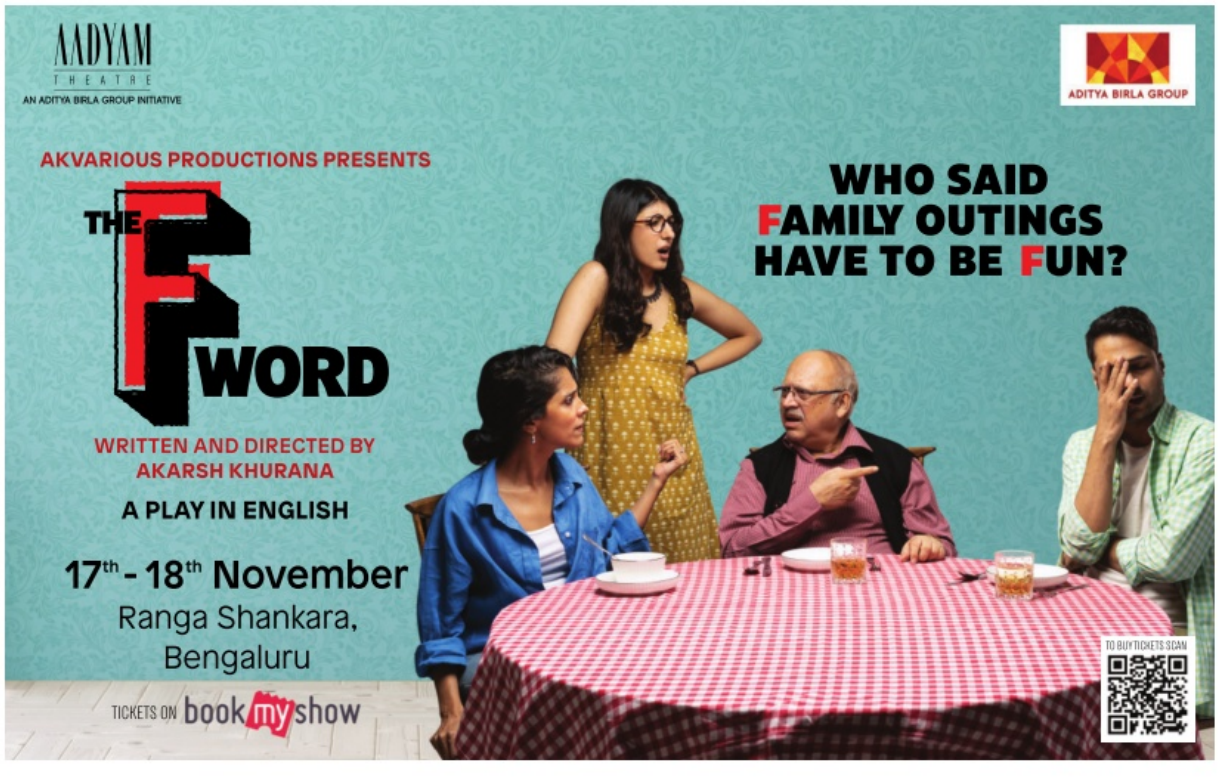
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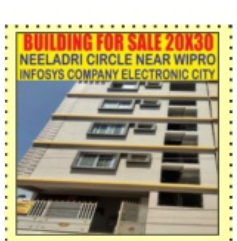

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> We need to move on and focus on our next challenge – take the positives, learn a few lessons
> —Kane Williamson, New Zealand skipper

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Zaman ton leads Pak home

63-ball century helps Pak hand New Zealand its fourth successive loss in rain-hit game

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Pakistan captain Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman; rain stopped play eventually in Bengaluru on Saturday

#BENGALURU

Fakhar Zaman bludgeoned a 63-ball century as Pakistan handed New Zealand its fourth successive loss after a rain-hit Cricket World Cup game on Saturday decided by the DLS method.

Zaman's unbeaten 126 off 71 balls motored Pakistan to 200-1 in 25.3 overs, 21 runs ahead on DLS, after there had been two rain interruptions in a high-scoring match.

New Zealand's star of the tournament, Rachin Ravindra (108), had earlier smashed his third century in the competition, while Kane Williamson (95) missed out on a hundred on his return as his side amassed 401-6 after being put in to bat.

The win lifted Pakistan level on eight points with New Zealand, which occupies fourth place in the standings by virtue of a better net run-rate than Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Pakistan, which also lost four games in a row at one stage, could sneak into the semifinals with its last league game scheduled against England on Nov. 11.

New Zealand began the tournament with four consecutive wins against England, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and the Netherlands, but has now lost to India, Australia, South Africa and Pakistan in a shocking turnaround of form.

The Black Caps need to beat Sri Lanka in its last league game and hope Pakistan loses to England, or cannot come close to its net run-rate.

Zaman's power-hitting kept his side in the hunt in a steep run chase before rain took the players off the field with Pakistan cruising on 160-1 in 21.3 overs, ahead by 10 runs on DLS.

Captain Babar Azam (66 not out) played second fiddle to Zaman, who smashed 11 sixes against pace and spin as the pair stretched their match-winning stand to 194 before the rain returned.

Zaman was ruthless against leg-spinner Ish Sodhi, playing his first game of the tournament. He and Babar plundered three sixes in Sodhi's penultimate over, which ultimately proved vital.

"We just planned to build a partnership. I wanted to give the strike to Fakhar," said Babar after scoring his third half-century in eight World Cup games. "We knew we had short boundaries and we tried to utilize it."

Earlier, Ravindra and Williamson took on Pakistan's four-pronged pace attack led by the expensive Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf, and also didn't spare the two part-time spinners.

Afridi, who recently rose to No. 1 in the ODI rankings, recorded Pakistan's worst-ever bowling figures of 0-90 in a World Cup. Rauf was not far behind, ending up with 1-85. Hasan Ali (1-82), who came into the side in place of leg-spinner Usama Mir, also went for plenty.

Ravindra combined with Williamson for a 180-run partnership off 142 balls. Both batters fell in successive overs, looking for big hits, but New Zealand's middle-order kept on pushing with Glenn Phillips (41), Mark Chapman (39) and Daryl Mitchell (29) scoring at a rapid pace before Mitchell Santner's 17-ball 26 not out led the team past 400. "Quite hard to get our heads around this after getting that total," said Williamson. **-AP**

S Africa qualify for semi-finals

South Africa became the second team to qualify for the Cricket World Cup semi-finals on Saturday as a result of Pakistan defeating New Zealand.

The Proteas, with 12 points from seven games so far, join hosts India in booking a place in the last four.

Pakistan, New Zealand, Australia and Afghanistan have eight points each but all four will be unable to match the 12 of South Africa in the last week of group games. **-AFP**

Pandya ruled out

Star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya was on Saturday ruled out of the ongoing World Cup after failing to recover from his ankle injury.

Pacer Prasidh Krishna, who played 17 ODIs, has been named Pandya's replacement in the Indian squad, the ICC said in a media release. Pandya had hurt his left ankle while fielding off his own bowling in the game against Bangladesh in Pune on October 19.

"Tough to digest the fact that I will miss out on the remaining part of the World Cup. I'll be with the team, in spirit, cheering them on every ball of every game. Thanks for all the wishes, the love," Pandya said on 'X'. **-PTI**

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, RAJIV V R (Father) and CHITHRA.R (Mother) resident of No.402, MBR Starry Apartment, Royal Residency Layout Hulimavu Arikere, Bangalore - 560076, have changed my minor child name from ALLEN GEO MATHEW to AARAV RAJIV vide affidavit dated: 03,11,2023 Before Notary K.V. MANI Bangalore.

I Senthil Murugan S/O, Murugan Maruthappa Konar R/o B305, Mana Candela Phase 2, Sy.no 80/3, Sarjapur Road, Kodathi, Chikkakannalli, Carmelram P.o, Near Wipro Kodathi Sez, Bangalore, 560035 have changed my name to Senthil Murugan Konar.

I, Nadeem Ahmed Ajaz s/o Ajaz Ahmed Jabbar R/o #279, G/F, 6th Main, 6th Cross, JHBCS Layout, Kaderenahalli, B'luru-560078, have Changed my Name to Nadeem Ahmed vide affidavit Dt:04/11/2023 bef -ore notary B S Padmaprasad.

I, Tehsim Banu D/o Saleh Mohammed Sharif R/o No.30, 4th cross, 1st stage, 3rd Phase, Gokula, Yashwanthapura, Bengaluru 560022 have changed my name to TEHSIN BANU affidavit Dt.04/11/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

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I, Rodali Biswanath, 709/2, 20th Cross, Sec 3, HSR, Blr - 102 have lost my bachelor's degree certificate no. 20191911, issued by NIFT, Bengaluru year 2019

'Every game is do or die for us; we have decided to play aggressively'

KAUSHIK JN

Fakhar Zaman celebrates his century, in Bengaluru, on Saturday

#BENGALURU

Pakistan Fakhar Zaman has revealed that the team was 'praying' for no resumption after the second rain break as Pakistan defeated New Zealand by 21 runs via the Duckworth-Lewis Stern method (DLS) at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday.

Receiving 'Player of the Match' for his inspiring innings of 126 off 83 deliveries, hitting eight boundaries and 11 sixes, Zaman in the post-match presentation said it was his day.

"We were chasing 400 and that was our plan, just to see off the first 4 overs and thankfully it was my day. To be honest, I was lucky a few times but really enjoyed this inning. We know every game is a do or die for us and we have decided to play aggressively and we are playing with that mind so everybody is just trying to score runs," said Zaman.

"We were also praying that we don't want any more game to happen (while waiting anxiously in the dressing room during the rain break) because it was already 9 and half hours and we knew that DLS would come into the equation," Zaman added.

Zaman said they wanted to play with an aggressive mindset and will continue playing this way in the tournament.

"This is one of the best (knocks in ODI cricket) but I will always rank my 193 in South Africa highly, but I really enjoyed this game and New Zealand are a great side, so definitely one of the best. We wanted to play with that aggressive mindset and we will play aggressively in the next game also," said Zaman.

Pakistan still has a chance of qualifying for the semi-finals, having moved up to fifth place in the points table with a win over New Zealand. Pakistan will now face England in their last league match at Eden Gardens, Kolkata on November 10. **-IANS**

 # Meme fame
Nicolas Cage, recently revealed that he never intended to become a meme sensation. He explained that he got into acting because of his love for film performance and didn't expect the memes

DEFYING NORMS

Tabu celebrates single life, personal fulfillments

Bollywood actress Tabu, who turned 52 on Saturday, is proving that age is no barrier to breaking societal norms and embracing a fulfilled single life. In a recent interview with Hindustan Times Brunch, the versatile actress revealed her contentment with her single status, emphasising that "single" is not a negative label. She asserted that her happiness derives from various aspects unrelated to relationship status and underscored the importance of being true to oneself. Tabu firmly stated that she would have been unfair to herself had she sacrificed her acting career and passion for world travel for the sake of a romantic partner. She believes an ideal relationship should nurture personal growth for both individuals involved, focusing on liberation rather than stifling constraints.

Throughout her career, Tabu has remained open to the possibility of love and marriage but has not rushed into either. She recognises the complexities of man-woman relationships and how they evolve. She values the importance of individual experiences and independence, viewing people as unique entities rather than emphasising gender roles within a relationship.

Notably, Tabu candidly admitted to thinking of having a child outside of wedlock, but her sensible and rational side ultimately prevailed. As Tabu continues to captivate audiences with her exceptional talent, she is set to appear in the upcoming films "Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha" and "The Crew". **— ETimes**

DJ Ranveer

Actor Ranveer Singh is known as the "Powerhouse of entertainment", and his new viral video is proof of it. Recently, at superstar Shah Rukh Khan's birthday bash, Ranveer turned DJ along with singer Mika Singh and sang SRK's super hit tracks at the party. He also dedicated the song, 'Aana Mere Pyar Ko', to his wife, Deepika Padukone, who was grooving with other guests briefly. In the viral video, Ranveer could be seen donning a white shirt, and he sported a moustache look. He could be seen grooving to the tracks 'Zinda Banda', 'Lungi Dance', and 'Chaleya'.

Shah Rukh's birthday bash was a star-studded affair. Who's who of Bollywood and sports fraternity marked their presence at the party. It was attended by Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan and others. Ahead of his birthday celebrations with members of the film industry, SRK on Thursday interacted with his fans at an event in Mumbai.

On his birthday, he also appeared on the balcony of his Mumbai bungalow at midnight and waved at his fans. His birthday also became special for movie lovers for one more reason. On the work front, Shah Rukh Khan is riding on the success of two mammoth blockbusters, 'Pathaan' and 'Jawan' and is gearing up to release his next 'Dunki', scheduled to release this December. He unveiled the teaser of 'Dunki' on his birthday.

In the Rajkumar Hirani directorial, the 'Chak De! India's actor will share the screen with 'Pink' actress Tapsee Pannu for the first time. The movie marks the first collaboration of the 'Swades' actor with the '3 Idiots' director. Ranveer, will be next seen in director Farhan Akhtar's upcoming action thriller film 'Don 3'. **—ANI**

Spy universe

Superstar Salman Khan is all set to set the screen on fire with his action-packed avatar in the upcoming film 'Tiger 3'. Produced by Yash Raj Films, the film also stars Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi in the lead roles. After Salman's appearance in the action film 'Pathaan', several reports suggested that superstar Shah Rukh Khan might have a cameo in 'Tiger 3'. And now, if the sources are to be believed, Hrithik Roshan, aka Kabir, from the film 'WAR' will also feature in 'Tiger 3'.

An industry informer said, "Aditya Chopra has set the wheels in motion for a full convergence of super spies within the YRF Spy Universe! No one knows this, but along with Pathaan, Kabir will appear in Tiger 3! A handful of people know how Adi is visualising Kabir in Tiger 3, and this information is being kept under wraps to be only revealed when Tiger 3 releases in theatres on November 12!"

Aditya Chopra is building the YRF Spy Universe brick by brick, and Tiger 3, starring Salman and Katrina, is the next big one. Tiger, aka Salman Khan, is the OG of the YRF Spy Universe as 'Ek Tha Tiger' (2012) silently put the plan in motion to create slick super-spies that Indian cinema has never seen before!

It was 'Ek Tha Tiger' and 'Tiger Zinda Hai's humongous success that cemented Aditya Chopra's belief that he could incorporate two more larger-than-life agents, Kabir, aka Hrithik Roshan in WAR and Pathaan, aka Shah Rukh Khan, into his ambitious plans. 'Tiger 3' will hit the theatres on November 12 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Meanwhile, YRF has also announced 'War 2', which stars Hrithik Roshan, Kiara Advani and Jr NTR in the lead roles. 'War 2' will be helmed by Ayan Mukerji. **—ANI**

Childhood inspiration

It's been 25 years since Kuch Kuch Hota Hai was released, but the film continues to impact movie lovers. At the recently concluded Bombay Times Fashion Week, Rakul Preet Singh opened up about how the fashion and styling of characters in the Karan Johar directorial influenced her. She said, "After watching that film, people took to Tina's character, but I took to Anjali's character."

While Tina is the glamorous one in the film, Anjali is a tomboy, and Rakul can relate to her. She continues, "I was more of a tomboy growing up. I was eight years old when the film was released, and I couldn't stop watching it repeatedly. I loved the way she dressed up. I loved her short hair, her hair bands, and, of course, her clothes. I felt that these are such loose, comfortable clothes. I had a video cassette of the film, and I would rewind and play the parts that featured Anjali."

Now, when she looks back, Rakul feels a sense of deja vu. She says, "Just like that character got a makeover, I was a tomboy, and now an actress in a glamorous avatar all of a sudden." **—ETimes**

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Kakuro

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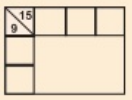

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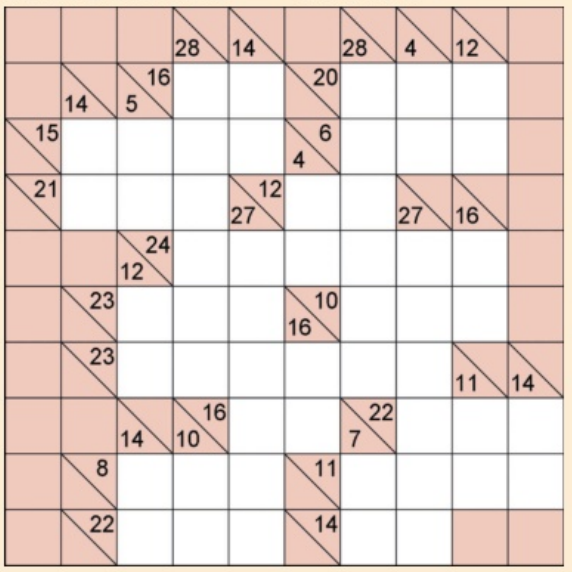

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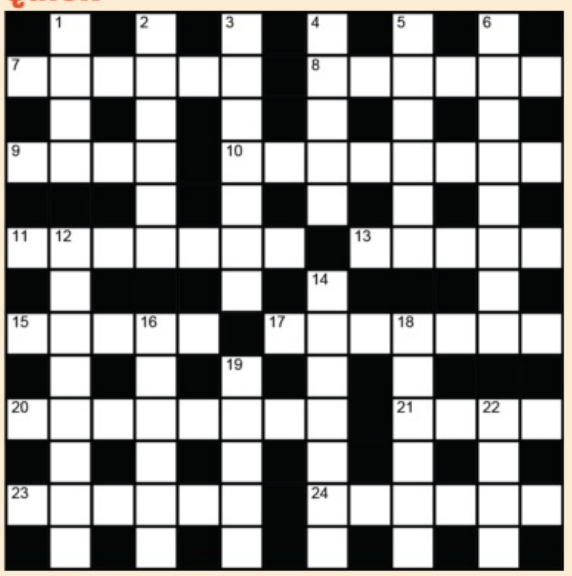


ACROSS

7 Decision-makers in court (6)
8 As a precaution (2,4)
9 Financial obligation (4)
10 Turned down (8)
11 Landed properties (7)
13 Subatomic particle (5)
15 Communion table (5)
17 Ex-India cricket captain Nawab of ____ (7)
20 In decline (2,3,3)
21 Floor coverings (4)
23 Part of a nut (6)
24 Refined people (6)

DOWN

1 A kind of trick (4)
2 Merchant of Venice lawyer (6)
3 Seized; appropriated (7)
4 Japanese assassin (5)
5 A frozen taper (6)
6 Minor planet (8)
12 Gagged or muffled (8)
14 Bangalore's famed botanical gardens (7)
16 Sore (6)
18 Equipping with weapons (6)
19 Blots out (5)
22 Sharp-tasting (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS T

TPMQSWP ZFBOAW QKP ZFP CQH ZFPH QKP, ZFBOAW CBNN OEZ WZQH ZFP CQH ZFPH QKP.

Linemaro

I would do your taxes any day

Mindchow

Power is being able to raise your eyebrow instead of your voice

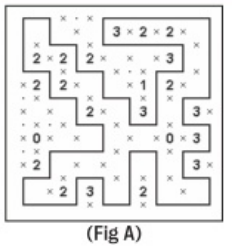
Joke of the day

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me ... they were cramming for their finals

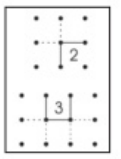
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

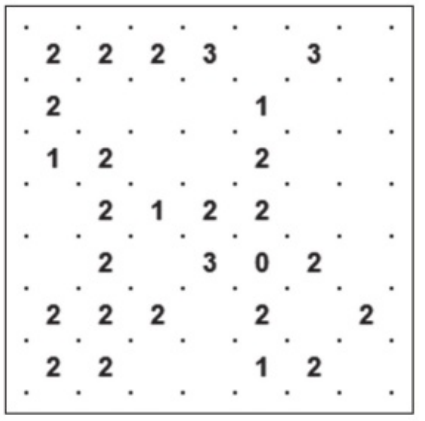


(Fig B) Not Allowed

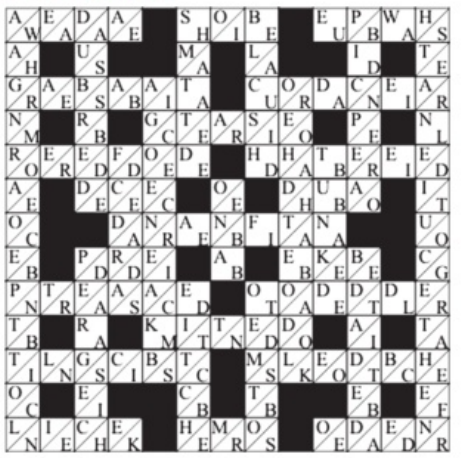
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



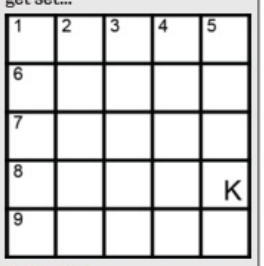
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

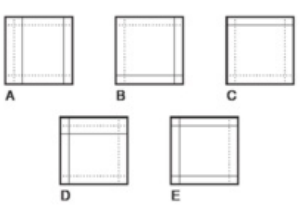
1 Sush H; 6 Manat;
7 Lader; 8 N luck;
9 Books

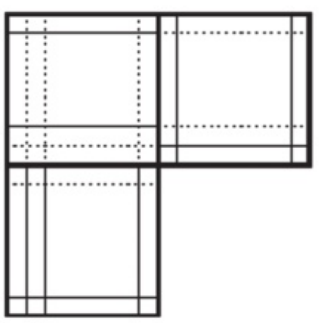
DOWN

1 Macks; 2 Holla;
3 Bundu; 4 Tones;
5 Shark

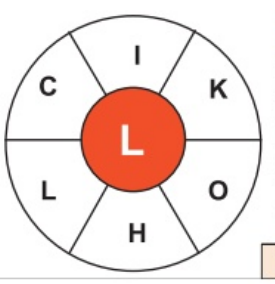
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing tile?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

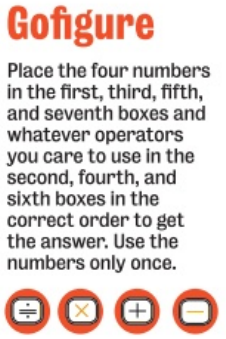
SudokuChallenge

					6	2		
9	2		1	3				
				5			1	9
		3			8	5	4	1
1								7
8	7	2	4			3		
2	1			6				
				7	9		5	4
		4	3					

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Doorknob is moved. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Hair is different. 4. Tree branch is missing. 5. Window in door is lower. 6. Cap is larger.

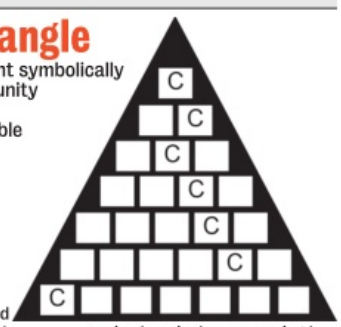
Riddler

The following are disguised versions of the names of famous entertainers. For example, given "chop subsidy", the answer would be "Hugh Grant" (hew grant). The hint gives each entertainer's gender and profession. Can you get all five of them?

1. the little finger without the ending
2. denim computer security breach male
3. valley nearby

Alpha triangle

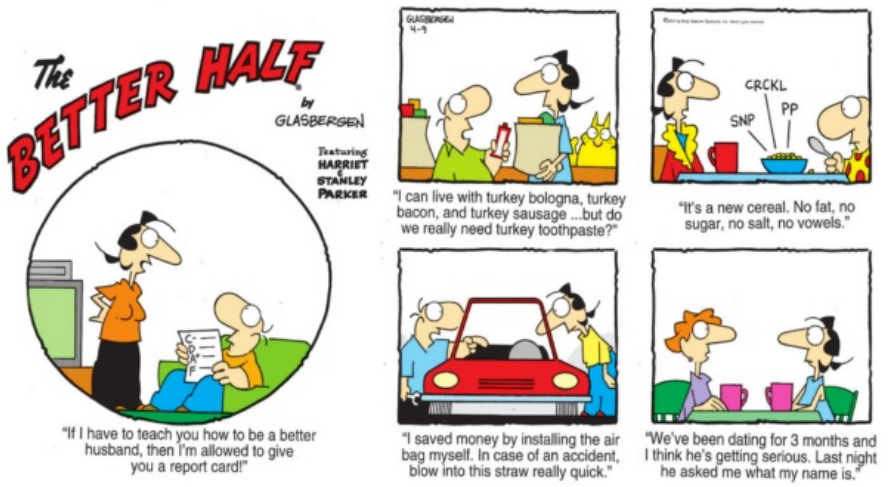
1 Diamond's element symbolically
2 European Community
3 Hard water?
4 Pleasant, agreeable
5 Female relative
6 Italian city
7 Deer like

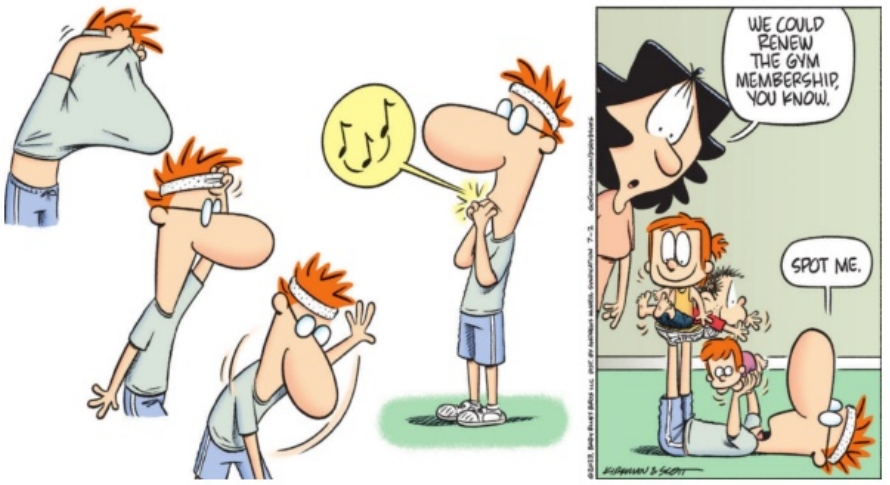


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

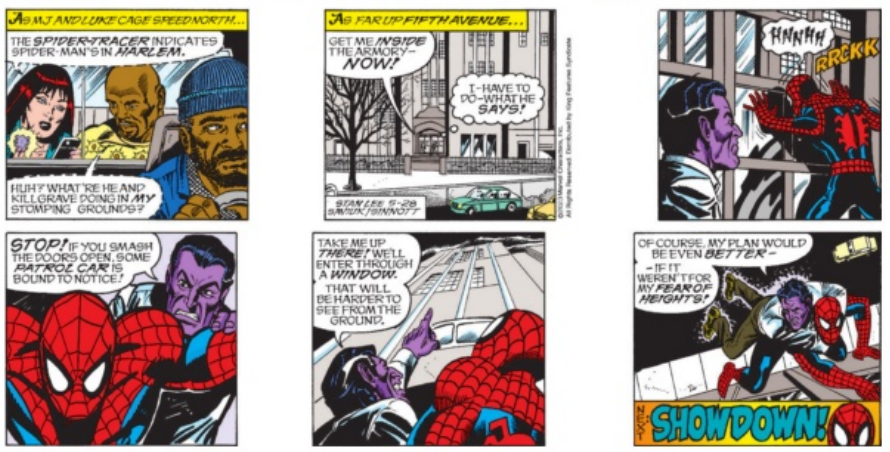
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"If I have to teach you how to be a better husband, then I'm allowed to give you a report card!"
"I can live with turkey bologna, turkey bacon, and turkey sausage ...but do we really need turkey toothpaste?"
CRCKL
SNP
PP
"It's a new cereal. No fat, no sugar, no salt, no vowels."
"I saved money by installing the air bag myself. In case of an accident, blow into this straw really quick."
"We've been dating for 3 months and I think he's getting serious. Last night he asked me what my name is."



the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAN LEE
THWIP!
POSSESSING INCREDIBLE "SPIDER-POWERS", PETER PARKER USES HIS SCIENTIFIC WIZARDRY TO CREATE AN ARTIFICIAL WEB-SHOOTER--
--A SIMPLE DEVICE, MAKING HIM MASTER OF THE CITY'S ROOFTOPS!


AS MJ AND LUKE CAGE SPEED NORTH...
THE SPIDER-TRACER INDICATES SPIDER-MAN'S IN HARLEM.
HUH? WHAT'RE HE AND KILLGRAVE DOING IN MY STOMPING GROUNDS?
AS FAR UP FIFTH AVENUE...
GET ME INSIDE THE ARMORY— NOW!
I HAVE TO DO WHAT HE SAYS!
STAN LEE 5-28 SANJULIAN/SINNOTT
HNNHH
FRCKK
STOP! IF YOU SMASH THE DOORS OPEN, SOME PATROL CAR IS BOUND TO NOTICE!
TAKE ME UP THERE! WE'LL ENTER THROUGH A WINDOW!
THAT WILL BE HARDER TO SEE FROM THE GROUND.
OF COURSE, MY PLAN WOULD BE EVEN BETTER— — IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY FEAR OF HEIGHTS!
SHOWDOWN!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be busy at work, but with the help of your strong network, you may be able to implement your plans successfully. Your wisdom may help you gain profits from past investments. You may enjoy your romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase harmony in your domestic life. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed work. There are some gains in your business that may boost your finances.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull. You may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in the business. It is also advised not to start a new venture. You are likely to face losses in the business. Your gains are likely to be converted into losses.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be enthusiastic, which may speed up your project. You may be able to make quick decisions, which will increase your business. You are likely to start a new innovation in partnership. Investments in fixed assets with the business partner are not advised.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may feel healthy, and old health issues may be cured now. The amount, which was stuck somewhere, is likely to be recovered now. You may also apply for a loan to buy some stuff related to luxury.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by Jupiter, which may give you confidence. You may be able to make important decisions confidently. You are also decisive, so you may grab the opportunity without a second thought. You are likely to spend money on family and friends. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments. Job aspirants are likely to get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may have a dull feeling. You may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance. It may affect both your professional and domestic lives. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work; your hard work may pay you now, which may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with the siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with an influential person may boost your network.

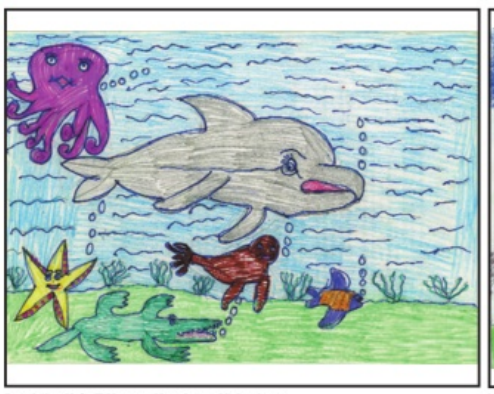
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which makes you happy. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills. You are polite with the people around you. You may make some difficult decisions in business with the help of your colleagues.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon; today is a good day for you. You have good vitality, which you may enjoy at work or in romantic moments with your spouse. It may improve domestic harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start some new project, and your perfection may help you design the flow chart. Job seekers will find suitable jobs. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may not feel better. Old health issues may arise, and it may make you upset. You may make some wrong decisions due to impatience and hurry. It is advised to think twice before making any decision. It is advised that you should not keep money loose; otherwise, you may spend it on buying worthless stuff.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. You are likely to have made good gains in your past investments. You may be able to make quick decisions in terms of work, which may give you good gains in the near future.

KIDZONE


Drishika K S, 7 Years, Kendriya Vidyalaya

Y Trishir, 9 Years, Jss Public School, Mysore

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=√(100+4)
=√25
=5

BULL'S EYE
chill, coil, hill, HILLOCK, kill, RABBIT, lick, lock, lock

STRIKE OUT

W	A	D	E	H	O	B	U	P	A	S				
	A		U		A		L		I		T			
R	A	B	B	I	T		U	R	A	N	I	A		
M		B		C	E	A	S	E		E		N		
R	E		E	F	E	D		H	A	L	T	R	E	D
	E		D	E	C		E		D	U	O		T	
C		A	R	A	B	I	A	N					O	
	F		R	E		B		B	E	E		G		
P	R	A	S	A	D		T	O	D	D	L	E		
T		R		M	I	N	E	O		I		T		
I	N	S	I	S	T		S	K	E	T	C	H		
	A		I		A				C		I			
N	E	C	K		H	R	S		O	D	E	R		

FAST FIVE

S	H	U	S	H
M	A	N	T	A
A	L	D	E	R
C	L	U	N	K
K	O	B	O	S

RIDDLER
1. Pink (pinky – y = pink),
2. Gene Hackman (Jean hack man),
3. Glenn Close (glen close)

QUICK

R	P	U		N		I		A						
J	U	O	R	O	R	S		I	N	C	A	S	E	
S		R		U		N		I		T				
D	E	B	T		R	E	J	E	C	T	E	D		
	I		P		A		L			R				
E	S	T	A	T	E	S		M	E	S	O	N		
	I		D		L									
A	L	T	A	R		P	A	T	A	U	D	I		
	E		C		V		L			R				
O	N	T	H	E	E	B		B		M	A	T	S	
	C		I		I		A		I		A			
K	E	R	N	E	L		G	E	N	T	R	Y		
	D		G		S		H		G		T			

STRIKE OUT

W	A	D	E	H	O	B	U	P	A	S				
	A		U		A		L		I		T			
R	A	B	B	I	T		U	R	A	N	I	A		
M		B		C	E	A	S	E		E		N		
R	E		E	F	E	D		H	A	L	T	R	E	D
	E		D	E	C		E		D	U	O		T	
C		A	R	A	B	I	A	N					O	
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P	R	A	S	A	D		T	O	D	D	L	E		
T		R		M	I	N	E	O		I		T		
I	N	S	I	S	T		S	K	E	T	C	H		
	A		I		A				C		I			
N	E	C	K		H	R	S		O	D	E	R		

QUOTE UNCODE
Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are.

MENSA PUZZLE
C: all lines carry on and change from dotted to unbroken, and vice versa

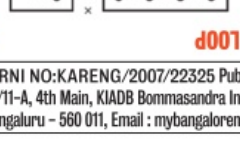
SUDOKU

5	8	1	9	4	6	2	7	3
9	2	6	1	3	7	4	8	5
4	3	7	8	5	2	6	1	9
6	9	3	7	2	8	5	4	1
1	4	5	6	9	3	8	2	7
8	7	2	4	1	5	3	9	6
2	1	9	5	6	4	7	3	8
3	6	8	2	7	9	1	5	4
7	5	4	3	8	1	9	6	2

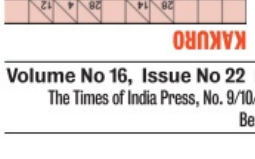
GO FIGURE
Easy
9 – 2 + 1 – 7 = 1
Medium
7 – 6 × 5 – 1 = 4
Hard
8 – 6 × 5 + 9 = 19

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, EC, Ice, Nice, Niece, Venice, Cervine.

LOOP



KAKURO



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